THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) No Sir. The Government of India have approved the proposal of Experimental Crop Insurance Scheme (ECIS).

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Post-Harvest crop management

1090. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Post-harvest crop management including marketing is one of the weakest areas in the farm sector; and

(b) if so, the details of measures taken by Government to improve Post-harvest management facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the Approach Paper to Ninth Five Year Plan, the following important measures will be taken in the food processing sector:

(i) Provision of activity specific infrastructure, such as, cold storage and transportation facilities, efficient processing facilities, trained manpower etc.;

(ii) establishment of linkages between farmers and processing units through contract farming;

(iii) rehabilitation and modernising flour milling units, rice hullers etc. by providing credit and other facilities etc.;

The small scale and village industries will be provided incentives and support to facilitate their growth and employment.

An Integrated Project on Management of Post Harvest Infrastructure on Horticulture Crops is implemented by the National Horticulture Board under which assistance is provided for grading/packing centre, retail outlets, transport vehicles, rigid plastic container, pre-cooling units, cold storage, mechanical grading/packing unit, improved packaging, quality testing equipment etc. A scheme for Post Harvest Technology for development of improved processing technology of oilseeds, pulses, maize and oil palm is also implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Cooperative sector will be reorganised and strengthened to provide better marketing and processing support to the farmers. In addition, a number of schemes are also implemented by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment to improve agricultural marketing and connectivity of all villages by roads.

Soil conservation and productivity

1091. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unless the ratio of Nitrogen Phosphate and Potash (NPK) is maintained at 4:2:1 ratio, soil quality will be eroded, adversely affecting soil conservation and productivity;

(b) whether it is a fact that the present ratio is 8:5/2:5/1;

(c) whether it is a fact that adequate controls do not exist to prevent the use of urea is excess of the requirement for short terms gains; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to maintain this balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Actual use of nutrients depends on many factors including the nutrients naturally available in the soil, consumption of nutrients by crops grown in the past and the requirement of crops intended to be sown. Hence, while a ratio of 4:2:1 for use of nitrogen, phosphorous and potash may be considered desirable as a general objective, it cannot be said that soil health and productivity would invariable be affected adversely if the ratio is not maintained.

(b) The NPK consumption ratio of 8.5:2/5:1/0 Obtained during the year 1995-96. The ratio was 10.0:2.9:1.0 in 1996-97.

(c) and (d) In view of the answer to (a) above, Government do not consider it necessary to lay down any restrictions on the use of urea or any other fertilizer. However, the balanced application of fertilizers, taking into account the result of soil testing, is emphasised as part of the extension message. The Government has also assisted in increasing the use of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers by giving a substantial concession in order to lower the price of such fertilizers to the farmers.

New Deep Sea Fishing Policy

1092. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new Deep Sea Fishing Policy is being envisaged by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to import Tuna Long Liners by Government to allow the Indian Fishery Companies to import Tuna Long Liner to exploit Tuna resources in Indian Water;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether there is any proposal to allow the joint ventures in Tuna Fishing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) In the wake of agitation by fishermen and fish workers groups, the Deep Sea Fishing Policy of 1991 has been rescinded and action has been initiated to formulate a new Deep Sea Fishing Policy.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal to import tuna long liners at present. Further, as the 1991 Policy has been rescinded, no new approvals are being granted.

उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार में कपास विकास योजना

1093. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी:**

क्या **कृषि** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या केन्द्र सरकार को उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार से कपास विकास योजना के संबंध में कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ है;

(ख) क्या केन्द्र सरकार जांच के उपरांत उक्त प्रस्ताव के औचित्य से संतुष्ट है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस शीर्ष के अंतर्गत उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को अब तक दी गई सहायता का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदी नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० एस० वेणुगोपालाचारी): (क) से (ग) जी हां। सघन कपास विकास कार्यक्रम की चल रही केन्द्रीय प्रायोजित योजना के अंतर्गत, उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य से वर्ष 1997-98 के लिए भारत सरकार को प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ है। राज्य के प्रयासों का समर्थन करने की दृष्टि से भारत सरकार ने केन्द्रीय हिस्से के रूप में राज्य को 63.88 लाख रुपये का वर्धित आबंटन किया है जो पिछले वर्षों से काफी अधिक है। इन निधियों को योजना के विभिन्न घटकों के क्रियान्वयन जैसे समेकित कृमि प्रबंधन सहित फील्ड प्रदर्शनों, कृषकों के प्रशिक्षण, बीजों के संवितरण, पौध संरक्षण उपकरणों, स्प्रिंकलर सैटों की सप्लाई आदि के लिए मुहैया किया जाता है।

(घ) प्रश्न ही नहीं होता।

Shortage of Certified Seeds in Orissa

1094. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the shortage of certified seeds in Orissa for growing paddy and wheat;

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure the availability of good quality and certified paddy and wheat seeds for the farmers in that State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The State Government has not reported any shortage of certified/equality seeds of paddy and wheat in Orissa. The position had been reviewed at the Zonal Seed Review Meeting and found to be satisfactory.

(b) and (c) Question do not arise.